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20. — *Waverley Novels*. Household Edition. *The Bride of Lammermoor*. In 2 vols. — *Ivanhoe*. In 2 vols. — *The Monastery*. In 2 vols. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1857.

WE are glad to find that, in the stagnation of the book-trade in common with other branches of business, it has not been found expedient to slacken the progress of this series through the press. Those who read the *Waverley Novels* as they first appeared, or in the earlier editions, can hardly know how much light is thrown upon them, and how much added interest is given to them as a whole, and to salient points in each story, by the author's Introductions and Notes. The publishers of the Household Edition have spared neither skill nor cost, and have displayed their well-known delicacy of taste, in all the accessories which depend on them. The lovers of Scott could ask no more fitting garb for his creations. Such books constrain a reperusal; and we believe that no man has really read these novels who has read them but once, so utterly impossible is it, when we are urged on by the unflagging interest of the tale, to take in those charms of diction, those coincidences with history, those inimitable shadings of character, those felicitous touches of humor or of pathos, which make every page a study.

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21. — 1. *A Practical Guide to English Pronunciation. For the Use of Schools*. By EDWARD J. STEARNS, A. M. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1857. 12mo. pp. lxxx, 55.
2. *Alphabetical Recitation List; to accompany the Pronouncing Guide*. By EDWARD J. STEARNS, A. M. Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co. 1857. pp. 55.

WE are acquainted with no other manual that holds the place assumed by Mr. Stearns's "Guide," nor can we see how the work could have been accomplished more thoroughly and happily than it has been wrought by him. His Introduction embodies the principles on which he has determined pronunciation in questionable cases, with an enumeration of the prevalent errors to be avoided. This is followed by lists of words, arranged respectively under the rules that should govern them, and, where necessary, with the false pronunciations to be shunned in parallel columns. The volume closes with an alphabetical catalogue of the words embraced in the body of the work, with a numerical reference to the rule under which each is to be found. The Recitation List is an alphabetical list of words, without marks or references of any

kind, which the pupil is to have before him, and from which he is to read the words as he has learned to pronounce them in the "Guide." When we consider the amount of wrong, vulgar, unanalogical, absolutely offensive pronunciation that is current, and that not only among the uncultured, but among the refined and well-educated, at the bar and in the pulpit, and when we remember, each for himself, the difficulty experienced in correcting mispronunciations that have become habitual, we cannot but attach a very high value to an educational manual in this department. Mr. Stearns's book ought to be adopted at once into every grammar school, high school, and academy in the land.

22. — *City Poems.* By ALEXANDER SMITH. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1857. 16mo. pp. 138.

WE were not among the admirers of Alexander Smith's first poems; and in these, while we find less to reprehend and more to praise, we occasionally detect a sensuousness which is not to our taste, and it seems to us that they are characterized rather by flashes of poetic fire, and felicitous *morceaux* of description and sentiment, than by sustained merit, either of thought, diction, or rhythm. But there is undeniable wealth of fancy in the brain that could give birth to such passages as these:—

"The stream of my existence boils and leaps  
Through broken rainbows 'mong the purple fells,  
And breaks its heart 'mid rocks, close-jammed, confined,  
And plunges in a chasm black and blind,  
To rage in hollow gulfs and iron hells,  
And thence escaping, tamed and broken, creeps  
Away in a wild sweat of beads and bells." — p. 65.

"A sudden veil  
Of rain dimmed all; and when the shade drew off,  
Before us, out toward the mighty sun,  
The firth was throbbing with glad flakes of light.  
The mountains from their solitary pines  
Ran down in bleating pastures to the sea." — p. 100.

"Thou, Love, who wrapt  
Thyself in flesh, and sat awhile disguised  
At the rude feast of our Humanity,  
And tasted every sweet and bitter there,  
Then rose and unsuspected went away;  
Who loved the humble ones at Bethany;